



W. H. C.

BURNLEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

DR. H. J. ROBINSON

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

Year ended 31st December, 1940.

Also

REPORT OF MR. FRANK HEWITT

Surveyor to the Council.

Burnley Rural District Council

Annual Report of Dr. H. J. ROBINSON (MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH)

For the Year ended 31st December, 1940

Also the Report of Mr. FRANK HEWITT,
Surveyor to the Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my annual report for the year ended 31st December, 1940, on the health and sanitary condition of the District.

The report is again a brief one, in accordance with the Ministry of Health's instruction, and is drawn up on the lines indicated in the Ministry's circular No. 2314, of the 26th March, 1941.

It is pleasing to report that the general health of the District was again very good throughout the year, and there were no causes of sickness or invalidity which were specially noteworthy.

The vital statistics reveal that the birth and death rates for the year were about the same as those in the previous year and about the average for the previous 5 years. The infantile mortality rate of 44 per 1,000 live births was 10 less than in the previous year and 8·8 less than the rate for the previous five years.

The total number of deaths was 232, and the chief causes of death were Heart Disease 62, Cancer 28 and Bronchitis 24. The number of deaths from Bronchitis was the highest we have had for several years. Infant deaths, under one year of age, were 8, as compared with 11 in 1938, and an average of 11·4 for the previous 10 years.

Infectious Disease. Apart from measles—of which there were 147 cases notified—there was not a great deal of infectious disease during the year. The number of scarlet fever and diphtheria cases were the lowest for several years, but pneumonia cases were slightly more numerous, *viz.*: 22 as compared with 17 in the previous year. The severe weather in the early months of the year may have been the cause of this increased number of cases.

Some propaganda work was done in connection with diphtheria immunisation and resulted in an increased number of children being immunised. It is expected that the greater national publicity given recently to immunisation will result in a much larger demand for treatment.

As regards the sanitary condition of the District, a perusal of the report will show that the supervision of the District has been well-maintained, as evidenced by the number of nuisances abated, houses repaired, and farm improvements.

Burnley Rural District Council

YEAR 1940.



Chairman : COUNCILLOR F. LEAVER, J.P.

Vice-Chairman : COUNCILLOR D. CREEARS.



COUNCILLORS :

Altham : Herbert Jessop, Pasture Gate, Altham.

Barley : William James Martin, Hoarstones Cote, Fence.

Blacko : Wilson Wallbank, Gisburn Road, Blacko.

Briercliffe : Fred Leaver, 7, Queen Street, Briercliffe.

Cliviger : William Alderson, c.c., Brookside, Cliviger.

Dunnockshaw : John E. Riley, 4, Prospect Terrace, Dunnockshaw.

Foulridge : W. I. Berry, "Burnside," Foulridge (from July, 1940).

Goldshaw Booth : Reuben Burton, Burton Lodge, Brierfield.

Habergham Eaves : C. Longbottom, Small Hazels Farm, Habergham Eaves.

Hapton : Tom Clark, 115, Manchester Road, Hapton.

Higham : James Stuttard, J.P., Whitehill, Read.

Ightenhill : Frederick Crossley, J.P., Stockbridge House, Padiham.

Old Laund Booth : Hezekiah Proctor, J.P., "Holly Mount," Fence.

Read : David Creears, "Castlebank," Straits Lane, Read.

Reedley Hallows : Richard Tootell, 22, Reedley Grove, Reedley.

Roughlee Booth : Joseph B. Hodgkins, c.c., "Sherwood," Fence.

Sabden : Thomas Hargreaves, 15, Whalley Road, Sabden.

Simonstone and Northtown : Frank F. Hitchen, "Beacons-holme," Simonstone.

Worsthorne - with - Hurstwood : Alfred Henry Pickles, J.P., "Bryn Hey," Worsthorne.

OFFICIALS :—

Clerk—H. E. PURTON.

Medical Officer of Health—H. J. ROBINSON,
B.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Engineer and Surveyor—F. HEWITT, F.S.I.

Sanitary Inspectors—A. JOHNSON (Chief).
S. GRIMSHAW.

Council Offices—18, NICHOLAS STREET, BURNLEY.

Public Health Department—20, THOMAS STREET, BURNLEY.

(A) STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

II.

Area (in acres)	39,841	<i>24000</i>
Population—Estimated, mid-year, 1940	17,350	X
Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1940 according to Rate Books	6,113	X
Rateable value	£115,701	
Sum represented by a 1d. rate (estimated)	£440	

The chief occupations of the people are cotton weaving, coal mining, and dairy farming.

There was very little unemployment in the District during the year, and social conditions generally were fairly satisfactory.

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.	Total.	Male.	Female.
Live Births —Legitimate	173	96	82
Illegitimate	3	1	2
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	10·4		
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	Total.	Male.	Female.
Still Births	3	1	2
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	16·3		

	Total.	Male.	Female.
DEATHS	232	122	110
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident			
<u>population...</u> ... ..	...	...	13·4

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

	Deaths.	Death rate per 1000 total (live and still) births
From puerperal sepsis	Nil.	Nil.
Other maternal causes	1	5·4
Total	1	5·4

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate	8	6	2
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Death-rate of all infants per 1,000 live births			44
do. legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births			44·8
do. illegitimate infants to 1,000 illegitimate live births			Nil.

DEATHS from Cancer (all ages) ...	28
„ Measles (all ages) ...	Nil.
„ Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil.
„ Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	Nil.

Population— 17,350	PER 1,000 OF ESTIMATED POPULATION.				MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE.		Rate of Deaths under One Year per 1,000 live births
	Live birth-rate	Crude death-rate	Death-rate from tuber- culosis of resp'tory system	Death-rate from cancer	Per 1,000 Live births	Per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) births	
Mean of five years— 1935-1939 ...	10·5	12·7	0·37	1·53	3·22	3·05	52·8
Year— 1939	11·6	13·8	0·22	1·54	4·92	4·76	54
1940	10·4	13·4	0·52	1·49	5·52	5·43	44
Increase or decrease in 1940 on— Five years' average, 1935-1939 ...	—0·1	+0·7	+0·15	—0·04	+2·3	+2·38	—8·8
Previous year	—1·2	—0·4	+0·30	—0·05	+0·60	+0·67	—10·0

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	Male.	Female.
1. Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers....	—	—
2. Cerebro-spinal fever	—	—
3. Scarlet fever	—	—
4. Whooping cough	—	—
5. Diphtheria	—	—
6. Tuberculosis of respiratory system	4	5
7. Other forms of tuberculosis	—	—
8. Syphilitic diseases	—	1
9. Influenza	1	1
10. Measles	—	—
11. Acute polio-myelitis and polio-encephalitis	—	—
12. Acute infectious encephalitis	—	—
13. Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus (males only); also cancer of uterus (F)	—	3
14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum	3	3
15. Cancer of breast	—	2
16. Cancer of all other sites	9	8
17. Diabetes	—	1
18. Intra-cranial vascular lesions	12	12
19. Heart Disease	32	30
20. Other diseases of circulatory system	2	3
21. Bronchitis	14	10
22. Pneumonia	3	3
23. Other respiratory diseases....	—	1
24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	2	—
25. Diarrhoea, under 2 years of age	—	—
26. Appendicitis	3	—
27. Other digestive diseases	3	2
28. Nephritis	4	3
29. Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis	—	—
30. Other maternal causes	—	1
31. Premature birth	3	—
32. Congenital malformations, birth injury, infantile disease	2	—
33. Suicide	1	1
34. Road traffic accidents	2	—
35. Other violent causes	3	3
36. All other causes	19	17
	<hr/> 122	<hr/> 110

The total number of deaths was 10 less than in the previous year and about the average for the last 10 years.

There was no unusual or excessive mortality in any of the causes of death, with the exception perhaps of Bronchitis where 24 deaths were recorded as compared with an average of 7·4 during the past 5 years.

(B) GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

No changes or developments from those given in my report for the year 1938.

(C)—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA. WATER SUPPLY

No important changes or developments during the year.

The supplies are constant and there was no real shortage in any part of the district. The reservoir at Cobcar Nook, Read, got rather low in June but the Council's arrangement with the Padiham Urban District Council, whereby the village can get a supply of water from the Padiham mains, obviated any danger.

No samples were taken for either bacteriological or chemical analysis during the year.

Details of the supplies to all parts of the district, and the number of houses with a piped supply of water, have been given in previous reports.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No special action has been taken to check the pollution of rivers and streams in the area. The chief source of pollution is from villages not yet sewered.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

There were no important extensions of sewerage nor was any special work carried out in connection with sewage disposal.

Several sewerage schemes are needed for various parts of the district, but these will, of necessity, have to be postponed until after the war.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The following statement shews the number of closet conversions carried out during the year and the previous 5 years :—

	1940.	1935-1939.
Waste water closets to fresh water closets	4	15
Privies to fresh water closets	4	2
Pail closets to fresh water closets	1	61
Privies to pail closets	—	12

NUMBER AND TYPE OF CLOSETS IN THE DISTRICT.

Estimated number of tank closets	....	....	433
Do. pail closets	....	....	605
Do. waste water closets	....	....	2396
Do. fresh water closets	....	....	2381

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

There was no extension or improvement during the year in the arrangements for public cleansing.

The salvage of waste paper, tins, scrap metal, etc. from household refuse has greatly increased the work of public cleansing, and in order to cope adequately with salvage work an alternate weekly collection of waste paper, etc. and of other house refuse was introduced, *i.e.* dustbins are emptied one week and waste paper, tins, etc. collected the week after. This system has worked very well.

The following amount of waste material was salvaged and sold between March and December :—

Waste Paper....	....	....	110 tons.
Metal (Ferrous and Non-ferrous)	10 tons.		
Bottles, Jars and Broken Glass	£24 worth.		
Small tins for baling	....	16 tons.	
Bones....	....	1 ton. 3 cwts.	

The sale of this material realised £483.

A result of salvage work has been a noticeable improvement in the condition of the refuse tips in the district.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

The several townships in the District have been regularly inspected.

Fifty-six complaints of nuisances were received. These were immediately investigated and dealt with.

Number of visits to premises	....	....	....	676
Number of defects or nuisances found	....	....	....	268
Number of notices issued—(a) Preliminary	....	....	....	216
(b) Statutory	....	....	....	6

MATTERS DEALT WITH :—

Defective dustbins renewed	....	....	....	125
Defective sanitary pails renewed	....	....	....	43
Blocked drains opened	....	....	....	26
New drains laid	....	....	....	4
Drains repaired	....	....	....	2
Septic tanks cleansed and repaired	....	....	....	10
Dirty houses....	....	....	....	5

Insanitary piggery	1
Defective closets	8
Overflowing liquid manure tanks....	9
Smoky chimneys	1
Accumulation of rubbish	2
Insanitary poultry midden	1
Defective tippers in waste water closets	6
Miscellaneous	15
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Total nuisances abated	258
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SHOPS.

No action was taken during the year under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, relating to temperature and ventilation of shops and to sanitary conveniences, nor under the Public Health Act, 1936.

CAMPING SITES.

- (a) Number of sites in the District which were used for camping purposes during 1940.... One
- (b) Number of camping sites in respect of which licences have been issued by the local authority under section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936 None
- (c) Estimated maximum number of campers resident in the district at one time during the summer season 60

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No special action was taken with regard to smoke abatement.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

No changes or developments during the year.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Fire Escapes :— Further inspections were made in connection with the means of escape in case of fire at factories and in some cases additional exits were provided.

Number of inspections and re-inspections	12
Number of certificates issued	5

Sanitary Conditions :— An inspection was made of the sanitary conditions which, generally, were found to be satisfactory.

TENTS, VANS, SHEDS, ETC.

No action was taken with regard to tents, vans, sheds, etc. in the district. We have no byelaws dealing with these or with similar structures.

SCHOOLS.

No change from conditions reported in previous reports.

No school closure on account of infectious disease took place.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

No case dealt with during the year.

(D) HOUSING.

The number of houses erected during the year was 4.

Townships in which the houses were erected :—

Cliviger	...	...	...	1
Worsthorne (Hurstwood)	...	...	...	2
Read	...	...	...	1

The erection of the above houses was commenced in 1939 and completed in 1940.

(a) STATISTICS.

Number of new houses erected during the Year :—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b))	4
(i) By the Local Authority...	—
(ii) By other Local Authorities	—
(iii) By other bodies and persons	4
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts :	
(i) By the Local Authority ...	—
(ii) By other bodies or persons	—

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	77
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	—
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous as to be unfit for human habitation...	—
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	53

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	51
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3. Action under statutory powers during the year :—

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs... ..	2
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	2
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	—

In addition to the 4 new houses erected, the Conservative Club at Sabden was converted into 2 dwelling-houses and an outbuilding at Read Hall, Read, was converted into a cottage.

The repairs effected to houses during the year were of a general character and included such items as :—repairs to roofs and walls to remedy dampness ; defective plaster repaired ; handrails provided in stairs ; windows repaired ; new sinks provided ; eaves-gutters and downspouts repaired, etc., etc.

The housing conditions, generally, are fairly satisfactory and have not been affected to any appreciable extent by the changed conditions of war-time.

(E) INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.**(a) MILK SUPPLY.**

Particulars as to the number of dairy farms in the district have been given in previous reports.

The number of inspections made during 1940 was 709

Notices issued re defects and dirty condition 167

Improvements effected :—

Houghton Barn Farm, ALTHAM	1. 3 new windows provided. 2. Boskins repaired.
Further Houlker Farm, ALTHAM	1. Dairy floor concreted.
Blacko Hill Side Farm, BLACKO....	1. Cowshed walls cement-rendered.
Spout House Farm, BLACKO....	1. Cowshed floor relaid in concrete. 2. Walls cement-rendered.
Height Farm, BLACKO....	1. Cowshed floor relaid in concrete. 2. Additional windows provided.
Fennymoor Foot Farm, BRIERCLIFFE	1. New stable built and horse removed from cowshed. 2. New milk-house built. 3. Cowshed floor repaired. 4. Cowshed walls cement-rendered. 5. New midden built.
Spring House Farm, BRIERCLIFFE	1. Dairy walls cement-rendered.
Stephen Hey Farm, BRIERCLIFFE	1. New windows provided in cowshed. 2. Cowshed walls cement-rendered.
Sweet Well Farm, BRIERCLIFFE	1. New milk-house provided.
Lea Green Farm, BRIERCLIFFE	1. 5 new windows fixed in cowshed.
Slack Farm, BRIERCLIFFE	1. Cowshed ceiling repaired.
Crag Farm, FOULRIDGE	1. Cowshed walls cement-rendered.

Higher Broach Farm, FOULRIDGE	1. New milk-house provided.
Moss House Farm, FOULRIDGE	1. Cowshed modernised.
Whitemoor Bottom, FOULRIDGE	1. New milk-house provided.
Hill Top Farm, HIGHAM....	1. 3 new windows provided. 2. Boskins repaired.
Foulridge Hall Farm, FOULRIDGE	1. Cowshed ceiling raised. 2. New boskins provided.
Cronshaw Brook Farm, FOULRIDGE	1. Cowshed ceiling raised. 2. Floor relaid in concrete. 3. Walls cement-rendered. 4. New boskins fixed.
Ball House Farm, FOULRIDGE	1. New window fixed in cowshed. 2. Cowshed walls cement-rendered.
Reedymoor Farm, FOULRIDGE	1. New milk-house provided.
Reedley Barn Farm, REEDLEY	1. New milk-house provided.
Waterside Farm, REEDLEY	1. New milk-house provided.
Bank Ends Farm, ROUGHLEE	1. Cowshed ceiling raised.
Croft House Farm, ROUGHLEE	1. Dairy walls cement-rendered.
Bramley Farm, SABDEN....	1. Cowshed walls cement-rendered.
Laneside Farm, SABDEN....	1. Cowshed ceiling raised. 2. Additional windows provided. 3. Cowshed floor relaid in concrete.
Bank Top Farm, SIMONSTONE	1. Cowshed walls cement-rendered.
Dean Top Farm, SIMONSTONE	1. Cowshed walls cement-rendered.

Crooked Billet Farm,

WORSTHORNE

1. Cowshed floor relaid in concrete.
2. Two windows enlarged.
3. Boskins repaired.
4. Rear walls cement-rendered.

In addition to the above, a modern cowshed to hold 39 cows was built at Gt. Stone Edge Farm, Blacko. The work was done voluntarily by the owner.

(b) MEAT AND OTHER FOOD.

Under the Government's war-time scheme of meat control the private slaughterhouses in our district have not been used since the beginning of the year; all slaughtering for this area is at present being done at the abattoir in Burnley.

The butchers' shops have, however, been inspected and were found clean and well-maintained. No meat was condemned during the year.

(c) ADULTERATION, ETC.

The County Council are the Food and Drugs Authority under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and deal with adulteration of food, etc.

(d) CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS OF FOOD.

Examinations are carried out at the Burnley Municipal Laboratory. No food was sent for examination during the year.

(e) NUTRITION.

No special action was taken.

(f) SHELL-FISH (MOLLUSCAN).

There are no shell-fish beds or layings in the District.

**(F) PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER,
INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.**

GENERAL.

The total number of cases of notifiable infectious diseases (excluding measles and whooping cough which were only made notifiable in October, 1939, and thus cannot be compared with any previous figures) was the lowest for many years, as the following table will show.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940
Smallpox....	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	20	17	28	19	27	15
Diphtheria	14	12	15	10	11	6
Enteric fever (including paratyphoid)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles .....	(	not notifiable				) 147
Whooping cough ....	(	do.				) 44
Acute pneumonia	20	9	24	7	17	22
Puerperal pyrexia	—	3	2	3	3	1
Cerebro-spinal fever	—	—	1	—	—	1
Acute poliomyelitis	1	1	1	1	1	1
Dysentery	—	—	—	1	—	—
Erysipelas	6	4	2	2	6	8
<i>Opht. Lalmia keon</i>	—	1	1	6	2	—

Scarlet fever.—The number of cases was the lowest for many years. Eight of the 15 cases notified were removed to the Infectious Disease Hospital. There were no deaths.

Diphtheria.—There were only 6 cases notified during the year as compared with an average of 12·4 for the previous 5 years. The Medical Superintendent of the Infectious Disease Hospital reports that since 1937 the type has not been so severe and serious complications have been fewer. All the six cases were removed to hospital. There were no deaths in our district.

Pneumonia.—The number was slightly higher than the average for the previous 5 years, 22 as compared with an average of 15·4. The number of deaths from this disease during the year was 6.

Measles was very prevalent throughout the year and was of the nature of a mild epidemic, 147 cases being notified.

The removal of cases to the infectious disease hospital is not pressed for, if there are facilities in the home for nursing and isolation.

PATHOLOGICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

Specimens sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Burnley, from our district during the year were :—

	Total	Negative	Positive
Diphtheria	20	19	1
Sputum (T.B.)	8	7	1
Faeces (T.B. etc.)	1	1	0

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Leaflets, published by The Central Council for Health Education, were distributed throughout the district in the early months of the year. This was before the national "drive" took place. There was not a very big response to the appeal and the majority of the applications for treatment were from 3 or 4 parishes near to towns where there had been several cases of diphtheria.

Number of children immunised :— School children	75
Pre-school children	25

Prophylactic used — A.P.T.

Treatment was carried out at the clinics in the neighbouring towns of Burnley and Padiham.

No post-Schick tests were undertaken.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR, 1940.

The following analysis of cases of infectious diseases notified, and deaths therefrom, under the various age groups, will perhaps be of interest.

Notifiable Diseases.	Total Cases Notified.											Hospital.		Total Deaths
	Total cases at all ages	Years.									65 & over	Total cases removed to Hospital.	Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to District	
		Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35					35-45	45-65
Smallpox	—	—	—	2	2	7	1	2	1	—	—	—	8	—
Scarlet fever	15	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	1	—	—	—	6	—
Diphtheria	6	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(primary & influenza)	22	1	—	—	1	2	—	1	3	2	7	5	—	—
Puerperal pyrexia	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal fever	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Acute poliomyelitis	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
Measles	147	3	14	11	12	71	24	4	5	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	8	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	2	—
Whooping Cough	44	1	6	9	7	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	245	5	20	23	22	95	29	8	12	2	10	10	18	—

Cancer.—The number of deaths from cancer was 28, one more than in the previous year.

The average number of deaths for the decennial period 1930-1939 was 24·7.

Localisation of the disease :—

FEMALES :—Uterus 3 ; Stomach and Duodenum 3 ; Colon 5 ; Ovaries 2 ; Breast 2 ; Rectum 1.

MALES :—Stomach and Duodenum 3 ; Rectum 2 ; Prostate 3 ; Colon 2 ; Lung 1 ; other 1.

SUMMARY OF DEATHS AT VARIOUS AGE PERIODS.

	15-20	30-35	35-40	40-45	45-50	50-55	55-60	60-65	65-70	70-75	Over 75
Males ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	3	4	1
Females	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	7	3	1	3

DEATHS DURING PAST 10 YEARS.

	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940
Males ...	12	6	12	7	9	10	17	14	15	12
Females	16	10	8	15	15	18	11	15	12	16
Total ...	28	16	20	22	24	28	28	29	27	28

DEATH RATE FOR THE PAST 10 YEARS.

Year.	Cancer Deaths.	Total number of Deaths (all causes).	Rate per 100 deaths.
1931	28	274	10·2
1932	16	210	7·6
1933	20	228	8·8
1934	22	212	10·4
1935	24	240	10·0
1936	28	223	12·5
1937	28	241	11·6
1938	29	182	15·9
1939	27	242	11·2
1940	28	232	12·1

TUBERCULOSIS.

			Non-	
Number of primary notifications received from medical practitioners on Form 'A'	Total.		Pulmonary.	Pulmonary
... 17	...	10	...	7
Un-notified cases (obtained from Death Returns	...	—	...	—
Total	...	17	...	10
			...	7

Localisation of the Disease :—

	M.	F.	Total.
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	5	5	10
Glands of Neck ...	3	2	5
Peritoneum	1	—	1
Rt. Shoulder Joint	1	—	1
	10	7	17

Occupation of Patients :—

	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.
Housewives ...	2	—
Cotton Weavers ...	4	—
„ Taper	1	—
Poultry Farmer	—	1
Chiropodist	—	1
School Children	—	2
Engineer	1	—
Office Clerk ...	1	—
Coal Miner	1	—
Farmer	—	1
Infants ...	—	2
	10	7

The following table shews the age periods of new cases and of deaths in the area :—

Age. Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
5—10	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
10—15	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
15—20	—	3	—	—	—	2	—	—
20—25	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	2	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
35—45	1	—	—	—	2	1	—	—
45—55	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
55—65	1	—	1	—	2	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	5	5	5	2	4	5	—	—
Totals	10		7		9		—	

TABLE.

Comparative Statement of Cases Notified during past 10 years.

Year.	PULMONARY.		NON-PULMONARY.		Total.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
1931	7	7	6	7	27
1932	8	5	4	4	21
1933	6	4	2	7	19
1934	9	13	4	4	30
1935	4	6	2	5	17
1936	7	7	1	3	18
1937	4	8	2	3	17
1938	1	7	4	6	18
1939	5	4	1	4	14
1940	5	5	5	2	17

The notification of the disease by medical practitioners is very satisfactorily carried out, and no case of wilful neglect or refusal to notify has occurred.

There were no non-notified cases amongst the nine deaths which occurred.

There does not appear to be any evidence of excessive incidence of, or mortality from, tuberculosis in any particular occupation.

Three patients were sent to various sanatoria for treatment, and 1 case of pulmonary tuberculosis and 3 non-pulmonary were reported by the County Tuberculosis Officer to have recovered from the disease.

No action was taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, which relates to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade ; or under the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to the compulsory removal to a hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

H. J. ROBINSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

September, 1941.

Burnley Rural District Council

SURVEYOR'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1940

*SUMMARY

The continuance of the war throughout the year imposed heavy work upon the department (with inevitably reduced indoor and outdoor staff), in connection with Air Raid Precautions and Defence Duties.

The only works of a constructive character were the renewal of certain inadequate Water Mains; a few small Road Improvements; the conversion of "Oakleigh," Reedley Hallows, into Council Offices; several new Surface Water Sewers, and some progress with the Regional Planning Scheme.

"Defence" works included the erection of twenty-one Shelters for persons caught in the streets during an air raid; the erection of a Decontamination and Cleansing station; the formation of Dams in various streams to facilitate fire-fighting; the construction of a number of Road Blocks, and works rendered necessary by actual enemy air raids.

Water Supply.

NEW MAINS laid during the year 1940 :—

Burnley Road, Briercliffe	4 yds. of 4 ins. iron pipes (to couple up with Burnley).
Skipton Road, Foulridge	67 yds. of 3 ins. iron pipes (to couple up with Colne).
Manchester Road, Hapton	81 yds. of 1 in. lead pipes (to replace worn out main).
George Lane, Read	120 yds. of 6 ins. asbestos-cement pipes (in place of 3 ins. old pipes).

All the bulk meters were read systematically and that at Barley was thoroughly overhauled. A bulk meter was installed by Colne Corporation to measure any water which may be required at Foulridge.

* The usual **full** Report (here summarised to economise in paper and printing) is filed for future reference and record purposes —F.H.

Bulk Meters are still required at: Sabden (2), Goldshaw Booth (Newchurch), as well as at Cliviger borehole and on the Thursden pumping main.

The number of service meters installed up to 31st December 1940 is as follows: Altham 15, Briercliffe 22, Cliviger 7, Foulridge 14, Goldshaw Booth 1, Hapton 14, Higham 11, Northtown 1, Old Laund Booth 16, Read 6, Sabden 4, Worsthorne 2. Total 113.

Replacements during the year were: Briercliffe 2, Foulridge 2, Goldshaw Booth 1, Hapton 1, Higham 2, Northtown 1, Old Laund Booth 3, Worsthorne 1. Total 13.

Special attention had to be given to hydrants in anticipation of extra fire fighting during the war. Additional ones were fixed at Sabden (2), Foulridge (2), Cliviger (3). As Cliviger is now served by Burnley Corporation fire brigade in place of Todmorden Corporation, 3 ball hydrants have been replaced by the valve type; and 11 at Holme, Walk Mill and Mereclough have been converted to fit the stand pipes of the former brigade.

At **Foulridge** two 4 ins. and two 3 ins. sluice valves have been fixed in connection with the coupling-up of Colne Corporation's water main.

An alteration was made at Foulridge reservoir to enable the bypass to be turned into the 6 ins. main as well as into the 4 ins. main.

The yield of the spring at Thursden again proved quite adequate for supplying the township of **Briercliffe**. Pumping from the bore-hole at Herd House was only resorted to occasionally, to maintain the plant in order. For the past fourteen years it has proved unnecessary to take water from Sweet Well.

The flow of water from the bore-hole at **Cliviger** is gauged from time to time and continues to show a falling off. A gauging for 1940 indicated 14,100 gallons per day as against 15,000 in 1939. The original yield was 33,000 gallons per day.

The Council's reservoirs at Briercliffe, Foulridge, Goldshaw Booth (Newchurch), Hapton, Read and Sabden were emptied and cleaned out.

No shortage of water actually occurred at any of the Council's water-works during the year, but it was deemed wise to augment the supply to Cobear Nook at **Read** by water purchased from Padiham. Houses alongside Whins Lane, Read, which are built at a high level, experience difficulty in drawing water at times when the main which serves Padiham and Read is in heavy demand. Houses at Wesley Street, **Sabden**, suffer in a similar manner.

The Ministry of Health called upon all water authorities to instal chlorinating apparatus—especially at waterworks which supply over 1,000 persons. Schemes were prepared during the year but, so far, no further progress has been made.

Sewerage.

No new sewers were laid during 1940, so the total mileage remains at 25·63 with about 713 manholes.

All claims for damages, etc., in connection with **Higham** sewerage, were settled during the year.

Sewerage schemes are required at Cliviger; Briercliffe (Lane Bottom area); Dunnockshaw; Ightenhill; Goldshaw Booth (Newchurch & Spensbrook); Hapton (Valley Gardens); Simonstone (the Clough & Blackburn Road areas); Habergham Eaves (Mosley Road); Roughlee; Barley; Reedley Hallows (Ainsdale Avenue & Quaker Bridge areas); and Worsthorne (Hurstwood).

Sewage Disposal.

Only the ordinary maintenance work was done on the Council's several outfall works during the year under review.

Considerable quantities of surface water are reaching the outfall works at **Worsthorne** and should be diverted. The addition of a septic tank and three sludge drying beds would greatly facilitate the efficient working of these purification works.

At the **Sabden** outfall works extensive repairs were done to one of the distributors. The method of sludging here is very antiquated and expensive. A considerable volume of river water gets into the sewer near Bull bridge and somewhat extensive works are required to obviate this. The negotiations referred to in the 1939 Report eventually fell through, subsequently another firm proposed to take over the Sabden and Stubbins Print Works and approached the Council with regard to treatment of their trade effluent, but up to the end of the year nothing had come of the negotiations.

At **Foulridge** a storm water overflow is required and improvements in connection with the treatment of sludge and storm water.

Altham.—The small outfall works at Hawthorn Bank require remodelling.

Ightenhill.—The abolition of the septic tank and filter bed at Park Lane and the substitution of an outfall drain to connect to Burnley Corporation's sewer is now overdue.

Similar remarks apply to the Clough area of **Simonstone**.

Building.

The number of plans submitted to the Council was 24 of which 23 were passed and 1 rejected under the byelaws. Dwell-inghouses completed during the year amounted to 7 (including the conversion of Sabden Conservative Club into 2 dwellings), an extraordinarily low figure owing to the war (See page 12 of the Medical Officer of Health's Report); 3 were demolished at Altham. Among other buildings erected during the year were a Cleansing Station at Worsthorne and extensions to mills at Foulridge and Reedley Hallows.

Up to date Byelaws relating to New Streets are now overdue.

Town and Regional Planning.

The following summary of the work done by the Committee during the year ended March 31st, 1941, has been furnished by the Regional Planning Officer, Mr. P. L. Hughes, to whom the writer is indebted.

During the past year progress has of necessity been slow owing to depleted staff and for other reasons; nevertheless some progress has been made.

Objections to the Draft Scheme have been clarified to a great extent, and removed entirely insofar as two Authorities are concerned. Owing to the uncertainty of the times it has been difficult to deal with many of the remaining objections, but the respite from building operations has been used to formulate plans for the coming of happier days. Government have given a lead that the replanning and rebuilding of England is being kept at the forefront of their policy and the question is being treated as one of great urgency, so that we shall not be found wanting when the time comes to implement our plans. The Committee, therefore, within the limits of available staff, are doing their best to continue with the work of Planning for the future development of the Region.

Close co-operation is taking place between the Committee and the various Government Departments concerned in the development of certain parts of the Region for the war effort. Hurried decisions have to be made as no delay can be permitted which might interfere with our war purposes; at the same time it is possible to give advice to the departments concerned which is helpful. In this way it is hoped that in some cases the work carried out for the war effort may be of some value after the war. The intimate knowledge by the Planning Office of various sites enquired after by Government Departments has helped to short circuit such enquiries, and development in certain instances has avoided pitfalls whilst other development has been speeded up.

The Committee's staff have been able to play their part in Civil Defence and because of their specialised knowledge of maps and map making certain very confidential work has been possible with very successful results.

A further reduction in decisions under the General Interim Development Order is noted, there having been 266 applications to develop, 108 of which have been granted unconditionally, 140 conditionally, and 18 been refused permission to proceed. Notice of appeal was received in one case, but the matter was cleared up without the necessity of hearing the appeal.

Fourteen applications have been made under the Restriction of Development Act, 1935, four being agreed to conditionally and the remainder unconditionally.

After careful investigation had been made into the question of the safety and preservation of plans, records and other documents, in these dangerous times it was considered a wise policy to purchase a Barcro Eliminator Photographic Storage Equipment for the purpose, and the machine is now awaiting assembly. This machine, besides the preservation of plans, will revolutionise the work of a drawing office, and will be made available for the use of every Constituent Authority.

Three assistants of the staff have left to join the Forces and two articled pupils have been appointed.

The expenditure of the Committee during the year was £1,501.

Culverts and Bridges.

Beyond ordinary maintenance work (including repairs to bridges on field footpaths) the only new work done was a footbridge near Wood Hey Farm, Worsthorne.

Surface Water Sewers.

For the drainage of the undermentioned roads the following were laid by the Rural District Council during the year:—Hapton Common, Hapton—260 yds. of 6" pipes and 330 yds. of 9" pipes. Hurstwood Lane, Worsthorne—140 yds. of 6" pipes. Whins Lane, Read—194 yds. of 6" pipes. Red Rock Road, Northtown—20 yds. of 6" pipes and 70 yds. of 9" pipes. Wellhouse Road, Sabden—28 yds. of 6" pipes, 33 yds. of 15" pipes and 11 yds. of 15" concrete pipes.

In addition, surface water drainage was done by the County Council's men on Classified Roads in the Rural District.

Private Street Works.

A considerable amount of private street improvement work is required notably in Altham, Briercliffe, Cliviger, Dunnington, Foulridge, Habergham Eaves, Hapton, Higham, Reedley Hallows, Sabden and Worsthorne.

Highways.

The only widening scheme done during the year was a short length of Lower Trap Lane, Simonstone, but somewhat extensive improvements were carried out to Whalley Road, Sabden, Red Rock Road, Northtown and Whins Lane, Read.

Plans were prepared for the widening of a very narrow portion of Stump Hall Lane, Higham, and the work will be done in 1941.

As forecasted in last year's report a further slip occurred of the embankment alongside Barley New Road which necessitated minor remedial works.

Designs were prepared for the layout of the Worsthorne Village Green for after-war consideration.

The steam roller was fitted with an attachment for scarifying macadam roads.

Curtailment of all work on roads (with the exception of ordinary maintenance) during 1940 to the extent of about 25 per cent. of the usual annual expenditure was called for by the County Council. Moreover, the departure of men to join the Forces or enter munition works and the reduction of available casual labour further retarded roadwork.

In the month of January a snowfall of most abnormal dimensions occurred. Every road in the district was covered very deeply and in numerous cases drifts over twelve feet deep blocked considerable lengths of main and other roads. To minimise the peril to the country's war effort extraordinary steps had to be pursued to expedite the resumption of traffic and to ensure that villages should not be isolated for longer than could be helped. Many additional men were set on and assistance was rendered by soldiers billeted in the district and by neighbouring authorities. Something like £2500 must have been expended in the Rural District on this work.

Considerable work was carried out by the Rural District Council in resurfacing, camber reduction, superelevation, retaining walls, etc.; a number of footpath works (kerbing, paving, etc.) were done and some 18 miles (186,324 super. yards) of road were treated with tar or bitumen at a cost of 5.10d. per yard. The County Council carried out similar work on Classified Roads.

THE EXPENDITURE of the Rural District Council on public highways during the year ended March 31st, 1941, was as follows :—

Ordinary Maintenance (patching, cleaning, direction posts, etc.)	£ 5204
Snow Cutting.....	1294
Tarspraying.....	4004
Special Maintenance (resurfacing, drainage, walls, kerbing, asphaltting, etc.)	1568
Public Footpaths and Footbridges.....	135
Road Barriers.....	2175
Total ...	£14,380

The expenditure (including tarspraying) of the County Council during the same period on the following Main Roads in the Rural District was: Whalley—Padiham £1756. Burnley—Bacup £970. Burnley—Todmorden £3107. Colne—Skipton £291. Burnley—Colne (Reedley) £200. Nelson—Gisburn £200. Accrington—Burnley £959. Blackburn—Burnley £660. Burnley—Manchester £972. Accrington—Whalley £50. Padiham—Barrowford £2242. Brierfield Road £120. Foulridge—Barnoldswick £235. Aids to Movement of Traffic £400. Total £12,162.

Increases in the cost of materials and in roadmen's wages had their inevitable effect on the year's expenditure.

Openings in roads made by gas, water, electricity and other authorities, and by builders and others for laying, connecting to or repairing pipes, cables, drains, etc. amounting to 81 in number and necessitated the making good of 465 square yards of roads and footpaths.

Air Raid Precautions and Civil Defence.

Works under this head, including some carried out at the request of the Military Authorities, were so multitudinous that far too much space would be required to give more than the briefest of summaries. Moreover, many among them being of a secret nature, cannot be the subject of a report.

Matters dealt with included :—The erection of a Cleansing and Decontaminating Station and vehicle washing platform; the building of 21 shelters for persons caught in the street in an air raid; further surveys, plans, etc. for the adaptation of basements, large culverts, etc. as shelters; supervision of the construction of factory shelters; propping of the cellar at "Springfield" as a shelter for control room staff; surveys, plans and estimates for Communal Shelters throughout the district; first aid repairs to houses damaged by bombs; demolition of buildings damaged by enemy action; specifications and tenders for the repair of buildings damaged in an air raid; the damming of streams, etc.

to form static water supplies for fire fighting; white line markings on roads and painting of kerbs, posts, projections, etc. to facilitate the movement of traffic on darkened roads; the taking over of "Montford," Wheatley Lane, for evacuated children; also of a house, etc. in Hapton for A.F.S. or Warden's Post; arrangements for the demolition by explosives, if required, of buildings rendered dangerous by enemy action; survey of tunnels, caves and passages; construction of numerous road blocks and assistance with bridge-blocking structures; preparation of schemes for the chlorination of water supplies; adaptation of an out-building at "Oakleigh" to accommodate A.R.P. squads; removal of direction posts and village signs; prevention of enemy landings scheme; scrap metal survey; intercommunication and mutual aid schemes with neighbouring authorities; replacement of decayed sandbags; plans, etc. for the protection of first-aid party posts; the continued training of men in shoring buildings, rescue work, decontamination, repair of mains, roads, etc.; arrangements for dealing with damaged or polluted water supplies; anti-gas measures; training in incendiary bomb control; supply of sand to householders, schools, etc.; provision of sand stores to protect sewers from petrol and for putting out petrol fires; distribution of sand for the extinguishing of incendiary bombs and to Auxilliary Fire Services; purchase of motor lorry to carry equipment and plant for rescue party; maintenance and painting of gas detector boards: acquisition of portable canvas tanks for fire services; the frequent re-formation of squads rendered necessary by men leaving to join the Forces, etc.; equipment of rescue, decontamination and other parties; the preparation of many maps for officials, police, fire brigades, parish councils, wardens, etc.; negotiations with the Home Office, Ministry of Home Security, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Transport, Military Authorities, County Council, Regional Commissioners and others; and various other matters too numerous to mention.

The resignation is recorded with regret of Mr. John Graham, of Cliviger, who had rendered most useful and untiring services in the training of the Decontamination Squad and of Mr. James Stanworth of Reedley Hallows who had built up and taken charge of the Rescue Party.

Miscellaneous.

Electricity cables were laid by the Lancashire Electric Power Company and Burnley Corporation in the following roads: Roman Road, Read, Simonstone Lane, Simonstone and Robinson Lane, Reedley Hallows. Overhead cables were fixed by the Lancashire Electric Power Company, Central Electricity Board and Post Office Telegraphs at: Blackburn Road, and Pasture Gate to Altham Nook, Altham Lane, Altham; Watt Street to Brogden's Farm and at "Higher Whinns," Whalley Road, Sabden.

As soon as possession was secured of the house "Oakleigh," Reedley Hallows, the work of converting into Council Offices was proceeded with, Mr. Jacques of Nelson being the architect, but it could not be completed by the end of the year owing to difficulties in connection with labour and materials.

Mr. J. N. Forbes, temporary assistant, was called to the colours in September. Efforts to replace him had not been successful up to the end of the year owing to the dearth of assistants.

During the making up of Reedley Road under the Private Street Works Act, by Mr. J. B. Bashall, Contractor, an accident occurred owing to a man falling into a trench, an action for damages against the highway authorities was heard at Manchester Assizes in July, 1940 and the plaintiff was awarded £470 damages.

At the end of the year the war was still going on and the only works which it is possible to forecast are: Sewage Tank and Sludge Filters at Worsthorne; building of Communal Shelters; the construction of a number of Road Barriers and Bridge Blocks; works in connection with First Aid Party Depots, and the installation of Chlorinating Plant at several waterworks.

It is hoped to find time for preliminary work, surveys, etc. in connection with various schemes to be put in hand after the war, if reduced staff will permit, but inevitably Air Raid Precautions and Defence Duties must be given preference over other work.

FRANK HEWITT,

Engineer and Surveyor.

August, 1941.

